at existing stations, implementation of R&M programme, reduction in T&D losses, proper load management, energy conservation measures etc.

SOs Promoted as Under Secretary

5141. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Section Officers promoted as Under Secretary during 1991 to date and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Section Officers accommodated in these promotions against their guota; and

(b) the criteria laid down for SC and ST candidates for promotion as Under Secretary and the number of SC and ST Section Officers who fulfilled this criteria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) No select list for making regular promotions to the grade of Under Secretaries of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after the 1986 select list due to protracted litigation regarding *inter se* seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. Consequently, ad-hoc promotions only were ordered from the grade of Section Officers on seniority-cum-fitness basis. The minimum eligibility service for promotion is 8 years. However, according to the instructions, if the number of SC/ST officers is less than the number of vacancies falling to their share in such promotions, then additional SC/ST officers to the extent required are located by going down the seniority list but within 5 times the number of vacancies being filled. Accordingly, 924 Section Officers including 162 SC and 20 ST officers were promoted on an ad-hoc basis on an all-Secretariat basis on different occasions since 4.12.1991.

I.T. Office, Patna

5142. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities propose to shift the office of the investigation wing of the department to revenue building premises at Patna;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give full protection to the investigating officers; and

(d) the matter which these officers are investigating ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and(b) Since the present Investigation Wing at Patna is functioning from rented premises, it is proposed to shift this wing in view of the acquisition of additional office space by the department.

(c) and (d) Since the I.T. Department is entrusted with the task of investigating complaints of tax evasion and conducting searches, a request was made to the Government of Bihar for providing security to various Income Tax offices. The State Government have deployed a mobile police control room outside the Central Revenue Building and the office of the Investigation Wing at Patna.

Removal of Encroachment

5143. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lt. Governor of Delhi has given orders to the Special Task Force to completely clear the encroachment and unauthorised construction from the Government land;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to identify the land mafia who sold the Government and Gram Sabha land to the innocent people;

(c) whether there is any proposal to identify the civic and DDA officials who allowed the construction on the Government and Gram Sabha land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that Special Task Force was set up by the Lt. Governor of Delhi to investigate specifically crimes related to encroachments and/or illegal disposal of public land; forcible dispossession of the occupants from properties and collusion & corrupt practices of public officials in this regard.

(b) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, the Special Task Force has undertaken to examine the cases relating to illegal sale of Government land & unauthorised construction on it.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that collusion and corrupt practices of the officials who allowed construction on Government and Gaon Sabha land is also to be investigated by Special Task Force.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

Money Laundering Law

5144. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a money laundering law is being drafted in line with a commonwealth model law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages of such a law following commonwealth model ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Ministry of Finance had appointed a committee consisting of representatives from the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Narcotics

Control Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Reserve Bank of India and Department of Economic Affairs to look into all aspects of money-laundering, and to suggest a suitable legislation to deal with the problem, if necessary. The committee is yet to submit its report to the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Oil Exploration

5145. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow hundred percent foreign equity in oil exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the Indian Oil Industry and the economy of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage private sector participation, Government of India has recently announced the New Exploration Licensing Policy. The salient features of policy are :

- Open availability of exploration acreages in addition to existing bidding rounds.
- Oil and Natrual Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited to compete for obtaining exploration licences on competitive basis alongwith other private sector companies.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Limited to be provided a level playing field by providing same fiscal and contract terms as available for private companies.
- Special package to encourage exploration in deep water and frontier areas.
- Freedom to contractors for marketing of crude oil and gas in the domestic market.

As there is no compulsory state participation through Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited, foreign companies will be free to bid and operate on their own. The new policy will augment investment in exploration and development and also induct the latest managerial and technological practices. In the long run this would boost crude oil production in the country and also add to oil reserves, which would in turn help us in saving outgo of foreign exchange on account of crude oil/petroleum products imports.

Alcoloid Factory at Neemach, Madhya Pradesh

5146. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production work is being carried out in two shifts in Alcoloid Factory at Neemach in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there has been constant demand to increase its production capacity to meet the requirements;

(c) whether foreign exchange is being saved to a large extent on account of the production in this factory; and

(d) if so,the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the production capacity of the said factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a constant increase in the domestic demand for Codeine Phosphate and other basic alkaloids in the country. The production capacity of the Neemuch Plant being limited the shortfall in supply is being met by importing Codeine Phosphate from outside. Foreign Exchange is being saved only to the extent of production of Codeine Phosphate by the two alkaloid plants at Ghazipur and Neemuch.

(d) The Government is exploring the possibility of converting the Alkaloid Plants into a corporate entity enjoying larger powers and greater autonomy in matters like upgradation of technology and enhancing production capacity etc.

[Translation]

Clearance to Power Projects

5147. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pace of implementation of power projects in 1996-97 has been dismal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of implementation of power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) During the course of monitoring and review of implementation of power projects, the major constraints have been found to be paucity of funds apart from other factors like delays in land acquisition, delays in taking up infrastructural and enabling works, delays in obtaining statutory clearances including environmental and forest clearances etc.

In order to ensure timely completion of power projects. Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority closely monitor the progress and render timely assistance, wherever required, by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.